

COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS

CITY OF VIRGINIA, MINNESOTA, SEPTEMBER 28, 2010

Regular meeting of the City Council of the City of Virginia, Minnesota, was called to order by Mayor Peterson at 6:30 P.M. in the Council Chambers, City Hall.

Roll Call:

Present: Councillors Cuffe, Littlewolf, Ralston, Baribeau, Russo, Mayor Peterson - 6

Absent: Councillor Sipola - 1

Mayor Peterson led the City Council in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the Consent Agenda, as follows:

1. Approval/correction of minutes of Regular Meeting held September 14, 2010.
 2. Adoption of Finance Resolution No. 10-018 – Schedule of Bills.
 3. Adopt Resolution No. 10120 authorizing submission and acceptance of an Iron Range Resources Grant to extend the infrastructure and provide site work for two new developments and for the expansion of Iron Trail Motors.
 4. Approve Application for Exempt Permit for Ducks Unlimited Mesabi Chapter to hold a raffle on November 18, 2010.
 5. Approve Dance Permit for Justin Bachman, d/b/a Silenced @ 801, to hold dance at Miners Memorial Building on October 30, 2010.
 6. Approve Tobacco License for Gabriel Garcia, d/b/a Virginia Smoke Shop.
 7. Approve renewal of 2 AM Optional Liquor License for Flaimer's, 127 Chestnut Street.
- Motion carried and Resolutions adopted unanimously.

Sam Claasen, SEH Engineering, Inc., stated he met with City staff to review the preliminary design phase of the renovations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. The preliminary construction cost estimate of \$13.6 million that was presented in the facility plan has increased to \$15.6 million and includes \$2 million for contingencies, mobilization, bonding and insurance. An itemized listing of the increased and decreased costs is included in the handout. Mr. Claasen requested permission to proceed with the final design plan and include the changes in the revised plan, at an estimated construction cost of \$15.6 million.

Mr. Claasen also stated that Mike Larson of SEH Engineering will work with the City to obtain grants to help fund the project. City Operations Director Tourville stated \$950,000 has been obtained through an interim bond to fund the design phase of the project.

Mr. Claasen stated the final design should be completed February of 2011 and anticipates calling for bids in May or June of 2011.

Mike Appelwick, Northeast Technical Service, stated the City has four years remaining of the five year permit to operate the Wastewater Treatment Plant before the new regulations go into effect.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to accept the preliminary design from SEH Engineering, Inc., for the renovations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant, at an estimated construction cost of \$15.6 million. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize SEH Engineering, Inc., to proceed with the final design for the renovations to the Wastewater Treatment Plant. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 1, Section 1.02, of the City Code of the City of Virginia entitled "Administration and General Government". Ordinance adopted unanimously.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to adopt an Ordinance Amending Chapter 10, Section 10.17, of the City Code of the City of Virginia entitled "Overuse of Police Services". Ordinance adopted unanimously.

City Attorney Butorac stated the East Mesabi Sanitary Disposal Authority transferred land to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency in 1996 and one forty-acre parcel was inadvertently left out of the transfer. The transfer of the remaining forty-acre parcel must be approved by the

original members of the East Mesabi Sanitary Disposal Authority, which include the cities of Virginia, Eveleth, Gilbert, Mr. Iron and the Town of Fayal. City Attorney Butorac stated a resolution approving the transfer of land to the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency was included in the City Council packet and will be acted on at the next meeting.

Councillor Russo stated the Housing and Redevelopment Authority is requesting permission to hold a wellness seminar at the Washington Manor in October and noted there is a policy currently in place that does not allow solicitors at the Washington Manor.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to allow the Housing and Redevelopment Authority to hold a wellness seminar at the Washington Manor. Motion carried.

Mayor Peterson reported on the Finance Committee meeting held as a Committee-of-the-Whole on September 14, 2010.

Mayor Peterson stated Finance Commission heard a presentation on becoming a “Green Steps City” and the City Council will further review the process with the Virginia Sustainability Task Force.

Moved by Ralston and supported to allow Jeff Brown, Administrator, Convalescent Nursing Care Unit, to send a letter to the State of Minnesota to express the City’s interest in the Equitable Cost-Sharing Program for Publicly-Owned Nursing Facilities and request an extension to the application deadline. Motion carried.

Gabe Garcia was present to urge the Council to allow parking in front of his building located at 112 2nd Avenue South for a new business. Mayor Peterson stated a trial period to allow the parking was held after Second Avenue was reconstructed and both the Engineering and Police Departments determined the parking to be unsafe in a congested area.

Moved by Ralston and supported to deny the request from Gabe Garcia to allow parking on the East side of the 100 block of 2nd Avenue South. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10121, approving the extension of the Facilities Use Agreement with Independent School District No. 2154, Eveleth-Gilbert, for lease of the Quad Cities Tennis for All Facility. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Ralston and supported to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to advertise for the sale of the basketball floor. Motion carried.

Moved by Littlewolf and supported to allow Range Respite to hold their annual poinsettia sale in the south room of the greenhouse and to authorize the Park/Recreation Director to set the rental fee. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to approve the travel request for Rick Puhek and Cheryl Weappa, Assessor's Office, to attend computer training, to be held October 18-20, 2010, in Bloomington, Minnesota. Motion carried.

Moved by Ralston and supported to adopt Resolution No. 10122, accepting proposal from Walker, Giroux and Hahne, Ltd., to perform the City audit for the year ending December 31, 2010, with the option of renewal for fiscal years ending 2011 and 2011. Resolution adopted unanimously.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to approve the membership with the Coalition of Greater Minnesota Cities for the year 2011, in the amount of \$12,090.00. Motion carried.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to receive and file the communication from St. Louis County regarding the proposed sale of State tax forfeited lands. Motion carried.

City Operations Director Tourville stated approximately \$2,000 will be used from the Library maintenance fund to repair the Library elevator.

Moved by Baribeau and supported to authorize the Mayor and City Operations Director to attend the Federal EDA meeting in Chicago, Illinois, on October 27, 2010. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to close the meeting to discuss a personnel issue. Motion carried.

Moved by Russo and supported to reopen the meeting at 7:35 P.M. Motion carried.

City Attorney Butorac stated two closed meetings have been held to investigate the theft charge for John Ditzler and recommended that the City Council make a determination on his employment status.

Moved by Russo and supported to terminate the employment of John Ditzler, effective immediately, based on the facts that have been presented. Motion carried.

See the 2010 Resolution Book for Resolution Nos. 10120 – 10122 and Finance Resolution No. 10018.

Meeting adjourned at 7:37 P.M.

(CORPORATE SEAL)

STEVE PETERSON
Mayor

LOIS ROSKOSKI
City Clerk